



## 2006 Vermont Better Backroads Small Grants Program

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Vermont Better Backroads Program is pleased to announce the tenth year of funding to enable projects on town or private roads to improve water quality and realize savings in maintenance costs. The grant funds are provided from the VT Agency of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and from the EPA-Section 319 water quality program through the VT Department of Environmental Conservation. The Vermont Better Backroads Program's goal is to promote the use of erosion control and maintenance techniques that save money while protecting and enhancing Vermont's lakes and streams. Funds, subject to availability, will be distributed as small grants to municipalities and local organizations to address town road erosion problems. (Receiving organizations must have adequate insurance, please call for details.)

Applicants may apply under one or two categories of funding (A & B). An applicant may also apply for more than one grant in each category (one application must be received for each grant sought).

#### **A. Road Inventory and Capital Budget Planning**

Reduction of road erosion requires planning and budgeting to realize cost savings and road improvements. Eligible projects under this category must include (1) an inventory of road related erosion problems affecting water quality in a particular watershed or the whole town. (2) The sites identified must then be prioritized by problem area. (3) This must be followed up by the development of a capital budget plan to correct these problems over a certain period of time. The selection committee will consider:

- involvement of leadership, for example, the Select Board and the Road Commissioner/Foreman
- commitment to pursue its adoption by the selectboard/governing association
- must address erosion control/water quality issues

#### **B. Correction of a Road Related Erosion Problem**

The Better Backroads Selection Committee will base its evaluation on the following criteria: water quality benefits, longevity and effectiveness of solution, specific support available to meet match obligation, use of aesthetic vegetative solutions where applicable and partnering efforts. Projects can be enhancements of a scheduled project that provide additional erosion control benefits such as ditch stabilization in conjunction with a culvert replacement, or it can be a stand alone erosion control solution. Priority funding will be given to those projects identified in an existing Road Inventory/Capital Budget Plan. (A copy of the Plan must be submitted with the application.)

Example projects:

- |                   |                           |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ✓Rock lined ditch | ✓Stabilize bank           | ✓Culvert header           |
| ✓Add turnouts     | ✓Add "daylighted" culvert | ✓Velocity reducers        |
| ✓Diversion berm   | ✓Energy dissipaters       | ✓Streambank stabilization |

The proposed project should not be for erosion control measures already required by town, state or federal regulations. **Work should be done to specifications contained in the Vermont Better Backroads Manual or an explanation should be given on the application form as to the need for deviation.** For a copy of the manual contact us at (802) 828-4595.

- Supporting documentation will enhance your application. You can acquire this from a state Stream Alteration Engineer, the Department of Environmental Conservation Lakes and Ponds Section, or the state Agency of Transportation District Administrator. Contact: Susan Warren for projects affecting lakes or ponds; Chris Brunelle, Patrick Ross or Fred Nicholson for projects affecting streams or rivers and your local Agency of Transportation office for general road maintenance or improvement projects. (\*See contact list below for phone numbers.) Other letters of support will also be considered.

Applications must be received in the RC&D Office or postmarked by **March 15, 2006**. **No faxed applications accepted.**

Send completed application to:

Northern Vermont Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council  
Better Backroads Small Grants Program 2006  
617 Comstock Road, Suite 2  
Berlin, VT 05602-8498

Projects will be selected by the Better Backroads Grants Committee and grant awards will be made by **April 15, 2006**.

Projects under **Category B** must complete field work by **October 15, 2007**. **The deadline to submit final reports for both categories is October 31, 2007.**

Grant requests in **Category A** can be made for a **maximum of \$4,000**. Grant requests in **Category B** can be made for a **maximum of \$7,000**. Grant recipients will receive the funds upon completion of the project. The average Grant Award last year was \$4981.00

The grant should represent a maximum of 75% of total project cost. A minimum 25% local match is required and can be met through cash expenditures as well as in-kind services such as staff or volunteer time and use of equipment (anything not funded by federal dollars). An example of how to calculate the required match is given below:

(Grant Amount Requested) divided by 0.75 = (Total Project Cost)

(Total Project Cost) – (Grant Amount Requested) = (Minimum 25% Local Match Required)

Example: \$1000 (Grant Amount Requested) divided by 0.75 = \$1,333.33 (Total Project Cost) - \$1,000 (Grant Amount Requested) = \$333.33 (Minimum Local Match Required)

Project completion will involve submitting a Match Documentation Form (to be supplied), six color photos of before (2), during (2) and after (2) the project (Category B only), and writing one news article/press release to publicize the project. \*If digital pictures are used they must include the original files in jpeg form. \*No slide pictures please. Additional products specific to your project may also be required. Final project documentation is due **October 31, 2007**.

Please call anyone on the Better Backroads Committee for additional information:

- Linda Boudette, Northern Vermont RC&D (802) 793-7816
- Jarrod Becker, Northern Vermont RC&D (802) 828-4595
- Beth Ann Finlay, Northern Vermont RC&D (802) 828-4595
- Hank Lambert, Vermont Local Roads Program, (800) 462-6555
- Susan Warren, Agency of Natural Resources, Lakes & Ponds (802) 241-3777
- Chris Brunelle, Agency of Natural Resources, Rivers & Streams, NW and West Central VT (802) 879-5631
- Patrick Ross, Agency of Natural Resources, Rivers & Streams, NE and East Central VT (802) 476-2679
- Fred Nicholson, Agency of Natural Resources, Rivers & Streams, Southern VT (802) 786-5906
- Ernie Englehardt, Agency of Transportation (802) 828-2691
- Kenneth Hafner, George D. Aiken RC&D (802) 728-9526

**NORTHERN VERMONT RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.**

617 Comstock Road, Suite 2, Berlin, VT 05602-8498

(802) 828-4595

**DEADLINE: March 15, 2006**

**VERMONT BETTER BACKROADS GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION 2006**

**PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CATEGORY A: Road Inventory and Capital Budget Planning Project**

PROJECT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PROPOSING ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON(S), INCLUDE DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

EXPECTED EFFECTS (+ & -) (What water quality impact will the proposed project have if approved?): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PROGRESS TO DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE HOW YOU WILL COORDINATE WITHIN TOWN TO MAKE THE PROJECT EFFECTIVE. LIST WHICH TOWN LEADERS OR RESIDENTS WILL BE INVOLVED AND HOW YOU WILL KEEP THEM INFORMED AND INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE HOW THE GRANT FUNDS WILL BE SPENT OR ATTACH A PROJECT BUDGET: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO MEET 25% MATCH: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTING: \_\_\_\_\_ ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST: \_\_\_\_\_

(Should include local match)

ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:** a) Appropriate supporting documents.

By signing this application, I certify that all the information provided is accurate, to the best of my knowledge. We will comply with all the requirements of the grant including making our books available for audit if required.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

**NORTHERN VERMONT RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.**

617 Comstock Road, Suite 2, Berlin, VT 05602-8498

(802) 828-4595

**DEADLINE: March 15, 2006**

**VERMONT BETTER BACKROADS GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION 2006**

**PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CATEGORY B: Correction of an Erosion Problem Project**

PROJECT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PROPOSING ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON(S), INCLUDE DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM (Is problem referenced in a Inventory/Capital Plan? If so, please attach a copy) \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS (Estimated cost of maintaining problem as is versus repairing correctly) - payoff will be in \_\_\_\_\_ # years: \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPECTED EFFECTS (+ & -) (Record what water quality impact, name of stream or lake, the proposed project will have if approved): \_\_\_\_\_

PROGRESS TO DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN HIGHWAY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ BRIDGE NUMBER, IF AVAILABLE: \_\_\_\_\_

IS THE PROJECT LOCATED IN THE TOWN "Right of Way"? \_\_\_\_\_

IS THE TOWN ROAD CREW GOING TO COMPLETE THE WORK? \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO MEET 25% MATCH: \_\_\_\_\_

GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTING: \_\_\_\_\_

ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST: \_\_\_\_\_ ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

(Should include local match)

- REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:**
- a) Itemized Materials List & Cost Estimate (for technical assistance, contact VT Local Roads at 800-462-6555).
  - b) Project Location Map (please show location of effected water).
  - c) Sketch of proposed erosion control measures, including distances (in feet).
  - d) Photo(s) of the project area.
  - e) 2006 Better Backroads Federal Highway Administration Information Form.
  - f) Agreement for Entry, Limited Release form (if project is outside the town right-of-way).
  - g) Other appropriate supporting documents.

By signing this application, I certify that all the information provided is accurate, to the best of my knowledge. We will comply with all the requirements of the grant including a commitment to the maintenance of grant funded projects and making our books available for audit if required.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_